

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMPTON/KADUNA SISTER CITY AFFILIATION

REF: STATE 302767

1. ACCORDING OUR RECORDS SISTER CITY LINK BETWEEN COMPTON AND KADUNA WAS DISCUSSED WITH CITY OFFICIALS IN EARLY 1975 AND APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE CIRCA MARCH 1975. HOWEVER, RETIREMENTS, TRANSFERS AND TERMINATIONS OF VARIOUS PERSONNEL IN CITY ADMINISTRATION AS RESULT OF JULY 1975 OUSTER OF GOWON REGIME AND SUBSEQUENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION (WHICH STILL GOING ON) HAVE ERASED INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY. IN ADDITION, CHECK OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS'S FILES HAS TURNED UP NO DOCUMENTATION ON DECISION TO AFFILIATE WITH COMPTON. POST HAS NOT PUSHED MATTER UNTIL RECENTLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS/ELECTIONS PLANNED FOR LATE 1976 PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN STILL FURTHER CHANGES OF CITY OFFICIALS WHICH, IN TURN, WOULD HAVE NECESSITATED STILL ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. EPAO HAS DISCUSSED SOMEWHAT TANGLED HISTORY OF COMPTON/ KADUNA SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARY OF KADUNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ALHAJI ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR, AND ALSO MENTIONED BROWNING/PAUL ROBESON PLAYERS VISIT TO KADUNA. ABDULLAHI EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN THE AFFILIATION BUT JUDGES THAT THE WHOLE
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PROPOSAL MUST BE FORMALLY RAISED ANEW. HE ASKED THAT A LETTER BE SENT TO HIM FROM COMPTON PROPOSING THE RELATIONSHIP. HE WOULD WELCOME VISIT OF BROWNING AND PAUL ROBESON PLAYERS DURING FESTAC PERIOD. ABDULLAHI WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEND A KADUNA DELEGATION TO COMPTON AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.

3. SUGGEST THAT COMPTON MAYOR FORWARD A NEW LETTER TO ABDULLAHI PROPOSING SISTER CITY AFFILIATION WITH KADUNA, GIVING SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT COMPTON AND AT LEAST BROADLY TOUCHING ON POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO BOTH SIDES FROM SISTER CITY AFFILIATION. CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO ALHAJI ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR, SECRETARY, KADUNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE, KADUNA. COPIES SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO ALHAJI MACIDO DALHAT, SECRETARY TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, KADUNA STATE, KADUNA, AND TO BRANCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER. RECOMMEND THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE BE SENT VIA POUCH THROUGH CONSULATE (WITH OUTER ENVELOPE (ADDRESSED TO BPAO LILLARD HILL, KADUNA, DEPT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520) TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE AWARE OF PROGRESS ON THIS MATTER AND CAN, AS NECESSARY, FOLLOW UP WITH ABDULLAHI.

4. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS THERE ARE NO DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S FILES ON THIS WHOLE MATTER, AND IN LIGHT OF ABDULLAHI'S REQUEST THAT PROPOSED AFFILIATION BE, IN EFFECT, INITIATED AS NEW PROPOSAL NOW, BELIEVE THAT BROWNING/ROBESON PLAYERS VISIT SHOULD NOT BE BILLED BY THEM OR BY US AS VISIT OF GROUP FROM AN EXISTING REPEAT EXISTING SISTER CITY. SUGGEST THAT VISIT BE PLAYED AS EVIDENCE COMPTON'S STRONG INTEREST IN ARRANGING THE AFFILIATION. CONSULATE WILL UNDERTAKE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS FOR BROWNING, AND, IF DESIRED AND FEASIBLE, PERHAPS A PERFORMANCE BY THE ROBESON PLAYERS. IN THIS CONNECTION THE POST DESIRES FURTHER INFORMATION ON GROUP. IS IT MUSICAL OR DRAMATIC GROUP?

5. APPROPRIATE GIFT OR GIFTS FROM COMPTON MIGHT BE COMPTON EMBLEMS IN FORM OF WALL PLAQUE, SUITABLY FRAMED COAT OF ARMS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND OR SMALL SET BOOKS ON CITY MANAGEMENT. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES KADUNA NOT YET AWARE THAT IT HAS ANY FORMAL SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH COMPTON, GIFT IDEA MIGHT WELL BE RECONSIDERED BY COMPTON WITH VIEW TO SUCH A PRESENTATION AT LATER DATE AFTER SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP ACTUALLY FORMALIZED. BURKE

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